

REPORT.

The Committee of Ways and Means to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the finances of the State, beg leave to report:

That they have had the subject under careful consideration and investigation, and are happy to give the assurance to the House of the prosperous and encouraging condition of the finances of the State. By reference to the Comptroller's Report, it will be seen that the receipts into the Treasury during the year, including a balance of \$378,123.98, left over from the previous year, amounted to \$1,578,123.98, and the disbursements to \$985,964.53, leaving remaining in the Treasury at the end of the year, applicable to future demands, the sum of \$592,922.03.

There was received into the Treasury during the fiscal year 1855, on account of the Sinking Fund, the sum of \$263,025.-87, all of which sum was, during the same period disbursed in investments for the use of that Fund. The amount of Stock standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund, on the 30th of September, 1854, was \$3,158,637.63, and the amount added during the year 1855, was \$268,112.42, so that the aggregate value of the Stock standing to the credit of that Fund at the close of the year 1855, was \$3,426,749.95. At the close of the fiscal year 1855 the aggregate of the Public Debt was \$15,132.909.

Of this amount the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company pays the interest upon \$3,200,000; the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canals furnish the means for paying the interest of \$1,000,000; and the Northern Central Railway Company will, hereafter, furnish money to pay interest upon \$1,5000,000, leaving to be derived from other sources, interest on the sum of \$7,998,916.02. The Sinking Fund holds of this debt, \$3,426,749.95, of which amount there was purchased during the last two years \$556,045.24, and there has been called in for redemption, and paid for out of surpluses in the Treasury, for those two years, the amount of \$211,433.31. So that during the last two years there has been absorbed of the Public Debt absolutely, by cancellation and redemption, the sum of \$211,433.31, and virtually by purchase, for the Sinking Fund the further sum of \$556,045.24, making an absorption actual and virtual of \$767,478.55, within that period.